

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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### Investigation of Hand-to-Mouth Buying Planned

An investigation of the economics of hand-to-mouth buying is contemplated by the Institute of Economics, a scientific organization established in 1922 and endowed by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and operated not for profit but "for the purpose of assembling and interpreting the economic data which forms the basis of national and international policies." In founding the Institute the Carnegie Corporation announced that "it is self-evident that the modern economic system has many defects, many sources of waste and friction, and that the annual avoidable economic losses are stupendous in amount. The Institute will endeavor through its investigations to ascertain the causes of the economic losses and, as far as possible, to point the way to their elimination."

The purpose of the proposed study will be to develop the facts and to interpret the meaning, extent and significance of hand-to-mouth buying so that business men and economists may be aided in understanding this development. According to the preliminary plans, four or five industries will be studied, these being so selected as to be representative of the entire industrial field. It has been tentatively decided to include the canning industry in the investigation, and if the plans are carried out the investigation should develop much information of interest to both the canning industry and trade.

### British Patented Procedure for Canning Peas

During the past year a patent has been issued in Great Britain covering the addition of sodium phosphate to peas be-

fore they are processed, for the purpose of preserving the color of the peas. It has been found that the amount of sodium phosphate which this patent proposes to add would entirely remove the acidity in the peas, and a product so treated and processed by methods now in use in the industry would not be sterilized. Moreover, the amount is believed sufficient to impair materially the wholesomeness of the product.

The processes now used in the canning industry and those suggested as a result of research work are based on foods to which no substance has been added that might change the acidity of the product. It is well known that the more acid foods require less heat for their sterilization than those that are less acid. Fruits and tomatoes are processed at boiling water temperatures and, in fact, the temperature at the center of a can of fruits or tomatoes is considerably below the boiling point of water. Such vegetables as string beans, spinach and beets are less acid than fruits and tomatoes, and therefore require more heat for their sterilization. Corn and peas are still less acid and require still more heat.

If before these products are canned any substance is added which materially reduces their acidity, it follows that the processes now used will be insufficient. This is important with respect to spoilage, and far more important with respect to botulism. Procedures such as covered by the patent referred to are therefore considered unsafe, and should not be followed.

#### **Effective Date of Southern Class Rates Postponed**

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced a postponement of the effective date of its order in connection with the Southern Class Rate Investigation (No. 13494), requiring the establishment of a revised basis of rates to and from points in Florida, to January 15, 1928. At the same time the Commission announced a postponement to January 15 of the effective date of its denial of further fourth section relief in respect of class rates involved in the investigation, except as to rates on packing house products and related articles, as to which the date was made April 15.

#### **British Government Publishes Bulletins on Foods**

Two reports published by the British Imperial Economic Committee on the general subject "Marketing and Preparing for Market of Foodstuffs Produced Within the Empire," have just been received by the Association. They contain a good deal

of valuable information for canners, particularly those who are interested in the export trade to Great Britain and her colonies.

The report on fruit was published in 1926 and contains chapters on bottled fruit, canned fruit, fruit pulp, jam, and crystallized fruit, which includes information on production, source of supply, imports, marketing and consumption. The report on fish, published this year, contains important information about fish and fish products. The committee has also published earlier reports, one on the general subject of marketing foods, and a second devoted particularly to meats.

Copies of these reports can be secured from H. M. Stationery Office, 28 Abingdon Street, London, S. W. I. The price of the fruit report is 4 shillings 10 pence; of the fish bulletin, 6 pence; and of the two other bulletins 9½ pence each, postpaid.

#### French Fishing Industry

Fishing operations along the west coast of France proceeded normally throughout most of the third quarter of this year, according to a report from the American consul, at Nantes. The serious strike of fishermen which occurred in June was settled in July through the intervention of the Government. The sardine catch was about 15 per cent less than normal, but this deficiency was compensated for by the extraordinarily large take of tunny and mackerel, thus keeping the fish canning industry for the quarter at about normal activity.

#### New Italian Decree on Artificial Coloring in Preserves

Supplementing the Italian Royal decree of October 15, 1925, prohibiting the use of artificial coloring matters in marmalades, etc., under the Italian Fraud Regulations, an additional decree of August 12, 1927, now permits the sale of conserves, marmalades, jellies, syrups of strawberries, cherries, hard black cherries and prunes which have lost or altered color in preparation, and have had coloring substances added which are harmless. Products with colors thus restored must be clearly marked: "Colored artificially with colors permitted by sanitary regulations," this wording to be printed on the vessel containing the product.

#### Tentative Reports on Rate Cases

In a tentative report to the Interstate Commerce Commission, the examiner in the cases involving rates on tin cans in carloads from Chicago to Watertown and Winsted, Minn., and

rates on canned foods from these two Minnesota points to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other California points, has proposed that the Commission find the present rates unreasonable and prescribe other and reasonable rates for the future. The rate proposed on tin cans is not to exceed 37 cents per 100 pounds, minimum 20,000 pounds, and on canned foods to San Francisco, etc., not to exceed \$1.05, minimum 60,000 pounds, and \$1.30, minimum 40,000 pounds.

The examiner in the case involving rates on mild cured salmon, in carloads, from points on the Pacific Coast to destinations on the Atlantic Coast, has submitted a tentative report recommending that the Commission find the present rates reasonable and dismiss the complaint filed against them.

#### Canned Food Exports in October

During the month of October, exports of canned foods were larger in all classes, except salmon and sardines, than in the same month last year. For the first ten months of the current year, as compared with the corresponding period last year, there have been increases in the shipments of canned meats, vegetables, fruits except apricots, and sardines; while there have been decreases in condensed and evaporated milk, salmon and apricots. The figures for October follow:

	October, 1926		October, 1927	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total ....	1,221,776	\$379,576	1,299,200	\$467,790
Beef .....	172,460	66,870	205,658	81,170
Sausage .....	272,646	76,905	334,050	105,780
Condensed milk .....	2,520,733	385,329	2,759,667	456,779
Evaporated milk .....	4,657,073	479,381	5,129,619	545,395
Canned vegetables, total	6,894,533	632,515	8,256,135	758,879
Canned fruits, total ....	22,434,287	2,222,768	31,165,093	2,865,242
Apricots .....	2,477,464	267,263	3,602,873	338,196
Peaches .....	6,896,942	679,895	9,830,885	832,484
Pears .....	6,016,852	566,358	8,996,721	935,710
Pineapple .....	3,054,032	315,034	4,176,081	371,306
Salmon .....	7,868,517	1,350,311	3,247,528	549,589
Sardines .....	9,050,857	820,709	6,468,397	560,414